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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CU-02
AID-05 IGA-02 PC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /061 W
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O 010824Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1970

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 5611

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

FOL TELEGRAM REC FM KARACHI DATED 31 MAY 77 SENT ACTION ISLAMABAD
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO, QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L KARACHI 2551

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PK
SUBJECT: KARACHI SPEAKING TOUR OF FEDERAL MINISTER TAHIR MOHAMMED KHA
N

1. THE FEDERAL MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, TAHIR MOHAMMED KHAN, WAS THE CHIEF GUEST AT A RECEPTION HOSTED BY DR. ALIYA IMAM (A WELL-KNOWN LEFTIST AND WRITER CRITIC) AT THE KARACHI INTER-CONTINENTAL ON FRIDAY, MAY 27, 1977. TWENTY-FIVE INTELLECTUALS, WRITERS AND LAWYERS, APPARENTLY OF HER SELECTION, HAD BEEN INVITED TO MEET THE MINISTER INFORMALLY. INCLUDED WAS USIS KARACHI CHIEF CULTURAL ADVISOR ENAYETULLAH SHARIFF, WHO WRITES UNDER THE PEN NAME, ANWAR ENAYETULLAH. BEFORE THE MINISTER ARRIVED, THE DIRECTOR, PUBLIC RELATIONS, PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT REQUESTED THE REPORTERS AND PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS WHO HAD COME THERE TO COVER THE RECEPTION TO LEAVE, AS ACCORDING TO HIM, THE MINISTER WAS MEETING OLD FRIENDS PRIVATELY AND THAT THIS PROGRAM WAS UNOFFICIAL.
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2. LATER, WHEN THE MINISTER ARRIVED, EDITOR OF THE KARACHI DAILY NEWS, WAJID SHAMSUL HASAN, LATELY A VEHICLE FOR GOP TRIAL BALLONS CAME WITH HIM. A GOVERNMENT PHOTOGRAPHER WAS ALLOWED TO TAKE PHOTOS AND THE DIRECTOR PUBLIC RELATIONS, WAS ADVISED BY THE MINISTER NOT TO ISSUE A DETAILED PRESS RELEASE ABOUT HIS TALK.

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3. THE MINISTER PERSONALLY KNEW MANY OF THE GUESTS, INCLUDING MR. SHARIFF, AS HE USED TO VISIT LITERARY GATHERINGS AND WRITE ARTICLES BEFORE ENTERING POLITICS. MOST GUESTS WERE AWARE THAT BEFORE 1969, HE HAD LEFTIST LEANINGS AND WAS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF NAP.

4. AFTER TALKING INFORMALLY WITH EACH ONE OF THE GUEST ABOUT WHAT THEY WERE WRITTING, HE SPOKE OVER TWO AND ONE-HALF HOURS ON THE PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY. THE MAIN POINTS WERE:
A) THERE WAS MASSIVE FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTRY, BECAUSE THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY TO GET RID OF BHUTTO'S PROGRESSIVE REGIME. (THE REPORTER DID NOT FEEL THAT THE MINISTER PERSONALLY BELIEVED IN THIS CONSPIRACY THEORY.)
B) THE PATTERN OF CIA ACTIVITIES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD, FITTED INTO THE PATTERN OF THE UNREST IN PAKISTAN. HE GAVE DETAILS OF WHAT HAPPENDED IN SOME OF THESE COUNTRIES.
C) PAKISTAN WAS UNDER GREAT PRESSURE FROM SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN TO SOLVE THE PRESENT CONFLICT. BOTH THESE NATIONS WERE GREAT FRIENDS OF THE USA. THAT IS WHY BHUTTO'S GOVERNMENT WAS NOT PLAYING UP ANTI-AMERICAN FEELINGS. "THIS WAS ONE REASON WHY THE PROOF OF AMERICAN INTERFERENCE WAS NOT BEING OFFERED TO THE NATION"
D) ON PAPER, CIA WAS NOT US GOVERNMENT, BUT IN REALITY IT SUPPLEMENTED US GOVERNMENT POLICIES.
E) PAKISTAN COULD NOT DARE TO ANNOY US GREATLY BECAUSE EXCEPT FOR CHINA, ALL SUPER POWERS WERE ANTI-PAKISTAN. "AFTER ALL, U.S. HAS BEEN PAKISTAN'S GOOD FRIEND."
F) IN SPITE OF THE STOPPAGE OF U.S. MILITARY AID, PAKISTAN HAD CONFIDENTIAL

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BECOME STRONG, BECAUSE, BESIDES BUILDING ITS OWN RESOURCES, IT HAD BEEN RECEIVING MILITARY AID FROM "CERTAIN SOURCES" WHICH HDC WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO DISCLOSE.
G) GOP WAS VERY EAGER TO COMPLETE THE INDUS HIGHWAY BECAUSE ULTIMATELY, IT WOULD SERVE AS A LINK TO THE SILK ROUTE FROM CHINA. THE REASONS WERE: IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, THIS WAS THE SHORTEST AND THE FASTEST ROUTE TO RECEIVE HELP.
H) RUSSIA HAD NOT CHANGED ITS ATTITUDE TOWARDS PAKISTAN. IT CONTINUED TO BELIEVE IN ITS ASIAN SECURITY PLAN, ACCORDING TO WHICH ONLY TWO COUNTIES EXISTED--AFGHANISTAN AND INDIA. THEIR PLAN WAS TO DISINTEGRATE PAKISTAN, SO THAT BALUCHISTAN AND NWFP MIGHT BECOME PART OF AFGHANISTAN AND THE REST T
GHT BE
ABSORBED BY INDIA.
I) U.S. WAS AWARE OF THSE SOVIET DESIGNS. IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT, EVEN KNOWING THE RUSSIAN PLAN, THEY ARE TRYING TO SUPPORT THE FORCES OF DISINTEGRATION. "A STRONG, UNITED PAKISTAN WILL BE MORE USEFUL TO THE U.S. THAN A STRONG AFGHANISTAN AND INDIA."

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4. DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS, IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT MINISTER TAHIR HAD READ MANY BOOKS ABOUT THE CIA, HAD ALSO BRUSHED UP HIS KNOWLEGE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND POLITICAL SCIENDE. HE WAR ARTICULATEK, COULD QUOTE FIGURES, AND SPEAK THE LANGUAGE OF A WELL-READ SCHOLAR.

5. HE KNEW THAT IN THE GROUP THERE WERE MANY PRO-PNA ELEMENTS. SO HE WAS CAUTIOUS ABOUT PRAISING BHUTTO AND CONDEMNING THE PNA LEADERSHIP. HIS TONE WAS SOFT AND HE SPOKE AS IF HE WAS TRYING TO CONVINCE THE SMALL AUDIENCE AS A SCHOLAR WOULD DO AND NOT AS A POLITICIAN.

6. DURING TEA TIME, HE HAD TO LISTEN TO SOME VERY PUNGENT REMARX FROM A FEW OF HIS OLD FRIENDS ABOUT THE ROLE WHICH THE NATION'S MEDIA, PARTICULARY RADIO AND TV, WAS PLAYING. BEFORE TAKING LEAVE AFTER ALMOST THREE HOURS, HE PROMISED TO COME BACK SOON AND ONCE GAIN MEET WRITERS AND SCHOLARS IN SMALL GROUPS.
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HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT, DURING THE NEXT 2-3 WEEKS, CONDITIONS WILL "DEFINATELY IMPROVE" AND HE WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE FORTHCOMING TALKS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION.

7. MR. SHARIFF FELT THAT THE MINISTER WAS AWARE OF HIS PRESENT WORK AFFILIATION AS HE ASKED HIM WHAT HE WAS WRITING THESE DAYS AND NOT WHERE HE WAS WORKING AS HE DID OTHERS. ALSO, THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS, WHO WAS PRESENT, ONCE WORKED FOR MR. SHARIFF IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FILMS AND PUBLICATIONS. MOORE
UNQUOTE
CONSTABLE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERS (DIPLOMATS), SPEAKERS, SOCIAL RECEPTIONS
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Sent Date: 01-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Document Source: CORE
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2004958
Secure: OPEN
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Subject: KARACHI SPEAKING TOUR OF FEDERAL MINISTER TAHIR MOHAMMED KHA N
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, PK, (TAHIR KAHN, MIRZA MOHAMMED), (IMAM, ALIYA), (KHAN, TAHIR MOHAMMED)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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